



**MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
LOWER WEST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LWCWSP)
ISSUES WORKSHOP**

**South Florida Water Management District
Location: UF/IFAS Lee County Extension Office
3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33916
Tuesday, December 14, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

WRAC Members:

Wayne Daltry	Tom Jones
Beverly Grady	Howard Wegis

Interested Parties:

W. Baxter	Ed de la Parte	Johanna Lundgreen
Lisa Beever	Rebecca Elliott	Kirk Martin
Larry Bishop	Pam Hayford	Joyce Mazourek
Angela Brewer	Ron Hamel	Fred Parts
John Cassani	David Hoffman	John Podczerwinsky
Catherine Corbett	Gordon Kennedy	David Schlobohm
Kim Dryden	Ellen Lindblad	Daryl Thomas

SFWMD Staff:

Terry Bengtsson	Linda Hoppes	John Mulliken
Mike Duever	Elliott Kambert	Rick Smith
Nestor Garrido	Tim Liebermann	Janet Starnes
Jeff Giddings	Sally McPherson	Clarence Tears

1. Welcome by John Mulliken, Deputy Department Director, Water Supply Department.
Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District determined that good cause existed to make the following changes.

Revisions to the Agenda were announced. Reorganized and additional speakers were added.

Mr. Mulliken welcomed and announced the appointment of Beverly Grady to the SFWMD Governing Board by Governor Bush.

All stakeholders introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

2. LWC Project Status, by Linda Hoppes, LWC Project Manager, Water Supply, SFWMD. (A copy of the handout is made an official part of this meeting summary.)

Ms. Hoppes presented information on this meeting, the third workshop, and subjects that will be addressed by the stakeholders and staff today.

Tim Lieberman, Senior Geographer, Watershed Management, SFWMD, was introduced and he provided an update to the information presented at the October meeting regarding spatial distribution of future land use. Information on the development of a future land use database as of December 2004 was provided. Work is considered to be final for the C-43 basin and near-final for the C-44.

County growth plans and estimates of residential densities were reviewed. Changes in land use between 2000 and 2025 and 2050 were shown on a map.

In summary, best estimates of 2025 and 2050 land use have been completed. Results represent on “best guess” out of many possible scenarios. Estimates are “conservative” for water demands. Data will be fully available when documentation is completed.

Question and Answer Session:

Tom Jones asked for information on future projections in Collier County, and Elliott Kambert, SFWMD, responded to a stakeholder’s questions.

Mr. Mulliken asked that a follow-up session be scheduled with Collier County officials to discuss the eastern Collier overlay and 20,000 acres for development. Janet Starnes, SFWMD, provided additional information.

Howard Wegis asked questions on the analysis of the future projections and Dr. Lieberman provided information.

Wayne Daltry asked for information on water storage in the land itself when it changes, and the questions were answered by Dr. Lieberman. Jeff Giddings, SFWMD, provided additional data.

Density difference was questioned by stakeholder and Dr. Lieberman provided information.

Elliott Kambert spoke on the mailout to all the utility companies that have been completed. Projections have been sent out to the utility companies. He asked if any company has not received a copy of the letter or provided the requested information, to please contact him as soon as possible.

Ms. Hoppes addressed the “Latest Changes to the DRAFT Consolidated Water Supply Plan Support Document, June 2003, Version 2.1” and said any suggested changes

need to be sent in to Curt Thompson at cthompson@sfwmd.gov, or other District staff. In April, it is anticipated that the next version 2.2 of this DRAFT Consolidated Water Supply Plan Support Document will be available.

4. Goals & Objectives for LWC Plan Update, by Linda Hoppes. (A copy of the handout is made an official part of this meeting summary.)

Ms. Hoppes presented information on the five proposed objectives. She requested comments and suggestions from stakeholders.

Question and Answer Session:

Enhancement of natural resources and restore existing flow was suggested to be added to the goals and objectives. Mr. Mulliken spoke of the efforts to balance with the Southwest Feasibility Study.

Reservations of water in Objective 5 was asked to be expanded upon and Mr. Mulliken spoke of initial reservations for CERP. Initial reservations for the Caloosahatchee were discussed.

Natural systems protection should include uplands, and not just wetlands, should be included in Objective 2. Fish & Wildlife objectives should be included in Objective 5.

Request for a new Objective 1 is to identify the water budget on 2025 and 2050 modeling. Objective No. 2 would be re-numbered on throughout the plan to Objective No. 5. Another stakeholder spoke on a monthly water budget and the breakdown of the basins.

Harm to the natural resources were discussed; i.e. the “no harm standard”. Another stakeholder spoke on the objectives and how they affect (or conflict) with causing harm to the natural resources. Water rights were discussed.

Brackish water sources for Collier County and possibly Lee County was discussed as it applies to alternative water sources.

Two designated water plans under Objective 5 should be inserted.

Objective 2 inserting information on drawdowns – add the phrase “including harmful reductions in water levels”. Mr. Mulliken provided comment.

Initial reservations in the Lower East Coast and the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plans were discussed. The timeframes for the initial reservations have no final schedule, but will be defined during the public process. This will be done during rulemaking. The initial reservations are for existing water. Mr. Mulliken and Ms. Starnes provided information.

An overall goal is what the stakeholders are looking for at this time. Total projected demand for all of the components is the goal needed. Stormwater discharge is the

largest part of the plan. Language will be changed and furnished to all interested parties.

Mr. Mulliken provided an explanation of the phases “Initial reservations with CERP” (which is not being done), and “CERP reservations”. Picayune Strand was discussed and a follow-up will be done to determine if it is in the plan.

Standards for harm were of interest to stakeholders. “Significant” harm is the legal requirement. Staff at SFWMD in the Office of Counsel and Modelers will work to determine exactly what “protect” and “harm” mean in the document.

Ms. Hoppes said staff will work on the comments and suggestions today and return with another version of the Goals and Objectives.

Additional discussion held on “harm”, water use and the permitting process. Drawdown standards will be defined by the SFWMD legal and regulatory staff.

3. Regional Irrigation Distribution System (RIDS), by Nestor Garrido, Senior Engineer, Water Supply. (A copy of the handout is made an official part of this meeting summary.)

Mr. Garrido presented information on the system to manage future demands for irrigation water in the coastal areas of Collier and Lee Counties. This has been a cooperative effort with local utilities.

There are three phases of RIDS: Phase I – Feasibility Analysis (2001 to 2002); Phase 2 – Sub-Regional Analysis (2003 to 2004); and Phase 3 – Implementation (2004 to 2020).

Larry Bishop, Boyle Engineering, presented information on the elements of the RIDS Master Plan for supply and demand analysis; institutional framework; and funding strategy.

This project promotes the sharing of water. RIDS interconnects pipeline system to deliver irrigation water. It stretches from Cape Coral to Marco Island. It considers reuse and alternative supplies such as supplemental surface water. The reason RIDS is needed was explained.

Information provided on the elements of the program and the water demands as population increases. The average annual demand increases from 160 million gallons daily (mgd) to 313 mgd. Fourteen major facilities utilize reuse.

Storage options information included the fact that reservoir storage is five to ten times the cost of Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR).

Angie Brewer, Angie Brewer & Associates, LC, spoke on the potential funding strategy. A planning horizon has been prepared to the year 2020. Priority projects were identified and those projects need to move forward as soon as possible. Federal and state funding is needed.

Mr. Bishop continued his presentation with information on the RIDS evaluation results and preferred alternatives. This provided 221 mgd of urban irrigation water by 202 and the total capital cost is estimated to be \$208 million.

The next steps were reviewed by Mr. Mulliken. RIDS provides regional benefit, local utilities manage and operate, and offsets future conventional water use. Information on the projects, the timeframe, and the role of participants was given.

Question and Answer Session:

An *Issues '05 Conference* was held last week and the focus was “regional issues” and this was not brought up at all. It was suggested that Representative Davis be contacted to inform him of RIDS. Mr. Mulliken said staff will follow-up on this information.

The amount of water available today and where is the water coming from as of this date. Mr. Bishop provided information.

Request for additional information on the costs were asked and answered. Surface water and aquifer storage recovery were discussed. Effects of ASR regulatory issues were provided by Mr. Bishop. ASR needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

5. Hydrologic Performance Measures, by Linda Hoppes.

The LWC Plan uses two general types of Performance Measures: Water Supply, designed to determine the performance of water supply alternatives; and Environmental – designed to protect natural areas.

The hydrologic model outputs are used to understand and simulate the potential effect water management projects may have on the natural and managed systems.

Information on the stages, flows and time-steps was provided. Aquifers – Surficial Model and the Floridan Model – were reviewed. A cross-section of the surficial model was shown.

Examples of the measures are hydrographs for water supply, monthly volumes of simulated water supply cutbacks in drought conditions, percent of annual demand not met, frequency and severity of water supply restrictions, and no impacts on natural systems.

Environmental performances examples and Floridan performance examples were provided.

6. LWC Hydrologic Sub-Regional Models, by Jeff Giddings, Sr. Supervising Hydrogeologist, Water Supply. (A copy of the handout is made an official part of this meeting summary.)

Mr. Giddings presented information on the sub-regional models and explained the need for modeling. Two separate models are being prepared, i.e. Floridan/Hawthorn Groundwater Flow and Transport Mode; and the Surficial Groundwater Model.

Information given on the projects using the LWCsR Models; model applications; surficial aquifer model; hydrostratigraphic column of South Florida; conceptual model and grid design: Surficial Aquifer; model boundary for Surficial Model; Wetland Hydroplattens Evaluation; Conceptual Model and Grid Design Surficial Model; benefit of 3D; calibration and verification surficial model; and a conceptual model and grid design: Floridan model. A map showing the active area for the Floridan model was provided.

Presentation continued with information on conceptual model and grid design Floridan model; calibration and verification Floridan model; and calibration and verification. Information on soft calibration was provided.

Question and Answer Session:

Water for specific projects and where it will come from was questioned and answered. Mr. Mulliken provided information. The model is not the plan – it is the tool used to develop the plan. Tools can likely be used for the areas on other projects. Consumptive use is of concern to a stakeholder.

The Mike She Model that has been used in Picayune Strand was discussed. Mr. Giddings provided information on the model used by SFWMD. Request for staff to review 50 pages of comments that were submitted on the Mike She Model.

7. Schedule for Next Workshop, by Linda Hoppes.

Ms. Hoppes announced the tentative date for the next meeting will be on February 28, 2005. This meeting will follow-up on any unfinished business; utility response to mailout (need information as soon as possible; but definitely by the end of December); performance measure viewer; Floridan Modeling; 2000 and 2025 model runs; and goals and objectives.

Initial Reservations meeting will be held on February 14, 2005 in West Palm Beach at District Headquarters.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Recorded By:

Paula Moree